

J. H. 2
A

POETICAL AND CONGRATULATORY
E P I S T L E

T O

JAMES BOSWELL, Esq.

O N H I S

JOURNAL OF A TOUR TO THE HEBRIDES,

WITH THE CELEBRATED

DR. J O H N S O N.

K
BY PETER PINDAR, Esq.

— Τρῶεςσιν ἐβόλετο Κῦδ' ὀρέξαι.

HOMER.

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A

POETICAL EPISTLE,

&c. &c.

O BOSWELL, Bozzy, Bruce,* whate'er thy
name,

Thou mighty shark for anecdote and fame:

Thou jackall, leading lyon Johnson forth

To eat M'Pherson † 'midst his native North;

To frighten grave professors with his roar,

And shake the Hebrides from shore to shore—

All

(* Vide Note, page 16.

† The translator (but in Dr. Johnson's opinion the author)
of the Poems attributed to OSSIAN.

All hail!—At length, ambitious Thane, thy rage
 To give one spark to Fame's bespangled page
 Is amply gratified—a thousand eyes
 Survey thy book with rapture and surprize !
 Loud, of thy Tour, a thousand tongues have
 spoken,
 And wonder'd that thy bones were never broken !
 Triumphant, thou through Time's vast gulph
 shalt fail,
 The pilot of our literary whale ;
 Close to the classic Rambler shalt thou cling,
 Close as a supple courtier to a king !
 Fate shall not shake thee off with all its pow'r,
 Stuck like a bat, to some old ivy'd tow'r.
 Nay, though thy Johnson ne'er had blest'd thy eyes,
 Paoli's deeds had rais'd thee to the skies !
 Yes! his broad wing had rais'd thee, (no bad hack)
 A tom-tit twitt'ring on an eagle's back.

THOU,

THOU, curious scrapmonger, shalt live in song
 When Death hath still'd the rattle of thy tongue;
 Ev'n future babes to lip thy name shall learn,
 And Bozzy join with Wood and Tommy Hearn,
 Who drove the spiders from much prose and rhyme,
 And snatch'd old stories from the jaws of Time.

Sweet is thy page, * I ween, that doth recite
 How thou and Johnson, arm and arm, one night,
 March'd through fair Edinburgh's Pactolian show'rs,
 Which Cloacina bountifully pours;
 Those gracious show'rs that fraught with fragrance
 flow,

And gild, like gingerbread, the world below.

How sweetly grumbled too was Sam's remark,

" I smell you, Master Bozzy, in the dark."

Alas ! historians are confounded dull,

A dim Bœotia reigns in ev'ry skull;

Mere

* Vide page 13.

Mere beasts of burthen, broken-winded, flow,
 Heavy as dromedaries, on they go ;
 Whilst THOU, a Will-o'-wisp, art here, art there,
 Wild darting coruscations ev'ry where.

What tasteless mouth can gape, what eye can
 close,

What head can nod o'er thy enlivening prose ?
 To other's works, the works of *thy* inditing
 Are downright di'monds to the eyes of whitening.
 Think not I flatter thee, my flippant friend :
 For well I know that flatt'ry would offend :
 Yet honest praise, I'm sure, thou would'st not shun,
 Born with a STOMACH to digest a TUN !
 Who can refuse a smile that reads thy page,
 Where furly Sam, inflam'd with Tory rage,
 Nassau, bescondrels, and with anger big,
 Swears WHIGS are *rogues*, and ev'ry ROGUE a
Whig ?

Who

Who will not too, thy pen's *minutiae* bless,
 That gives posterity the Rambler's * dress?
 Methinks I view his full, plain suit of brown,
 The large grey bushy wig that grac'd his crown,
 Black worsted stockings, little silver buckles,
 And shirt that had no ruffles for his knuckles.
 I mark the brown great-coat of cloth he wore,
 That two huge Patagonian pockets bore,
 Which Patagonians (wond'rous to unfold !)
 Would fairly both his Dictionaries hold.
 I see the Rambler † on a large bay mare,
 Just like a Centaur ev'ry danger dare,
 On a full gallop dash the yielding wind,
 The colt and Bozzy scampring close behind.

Of Lady Lochbuy ‡ with what glee we read,
 Who offer'd Sam for breakfast, cold sheep's head ;

B

Who

* Vide p. 9.

† P. 376.

‡ P. 429.

Who prefs'd and worried by this dame so civil,
Wish'd the sheep's head and woman's at the
devil.

I see you failing both in Buchan's * pot —
Now storming an old woman † and her cot,
Who terrify'd at each tremendous shape,
Deem'd you two demons ready for a rape.
I see all marv'ling at M'Leod's together
On Sam's remarks ‡ on whey, and tanning
leather ;

At Corrichatachin's §, the Lord knows how,
I see thee, Bozzy, drunk as David's fow,
And begging, with rais'd eyes and lengthned chin,
Heav'n not to damn thee for the deadly sin.
I see too, the stern moralist regale,
And pen a Latin ode to Mrs. Thrale. ||

I see,

* P. 104.

† P. 143.

‡ P. 299.

§ P. 317.

|| P. 177.

I see, without a night-cap on his head,
 Rare sight ! bald Sam in the Pretender's * bed.
 I hear (what's wonderful !) unfought by studying,
 His classic dissertation upon pudding. †
 Of PROVOST JOPP, ‡ I mark the marv'ling face,
 Who gave the RAMBLER's freedom with a *grace*.
 I see too, trav'ling from the ISLE OF EGG, §
 The humble servant || of a horse's leg ;
 And SNIP, the taylor, from the ISLE of MUCK, ¶
 Who stitched in SKY with tolerable luck.
 I see the horn that drunkards must adore ;
 The horn, the mighty horn of Roric More ; |||
 And bloody shields that guarded hearts in quarrels,
 Now guard from rats the milk and butter barrels.
 Methinks, the Caledonian dame I see
 Familiar sitting on the RAMBLER's knee,
Charming,

* P. 216. † P. 440. ‡ P. 39. § P. 275.

|| A Blacksmith. ¶ P. 275. ||| P. 254.

Charming, with kisses sweet, the chuckling sage :

Melting with sweetest smiles the frost of age ;

Like SOL, who darts at times a chearful ray

O'er the wan visage of a winter's day.

" Do it again, my dear," (I hear Sam cry)

" See who first tires, my charmer, *you* or *I*."

I see thee stuffing, with a hand uncouth,

An old dry'd whiting in thy Johnson's mouth,

And lo ! I see, with all his might and main,

Thy Johnson spit the whiting out again.

Rare anecdotes ! 'tis anecdotes like these,

That bring thee glory, and the million please !

On these, shall future times delighted stare,

Thou charming haberdasher of small ware !

STEWART and ROBERTSON, from *thee*, shall
learn,

The simple charms of HIST'RY to discern :

To

To *thee*, fair HIST'RY's palm, shall LIVY yield,
And TACITUS, to BOZZY, leave the field!

JOE MILLER's self, whose page such fun, provokes,
Shall quit his shroud, to grin at Bozzy's jokes!

How are we all with rapture touch'd, to see
Where, when, and at what hour, you swallow'd
tea!

How, *once*, to grace this Asiatic treat,
Came haddocks, which the RAMBLER could
not eat.

Pleas'd, on thy book thy SOV'REIGN's eye-
balls roll,

Who loves a gossip's story from his soul!
Blest with the mem'ry of the Persian king,*
HE, *ev'ry body* knows, and *ev'ry thing*;
Who's dead, who's married, what poor girl beguil'd,
Hath *lost* a paramour, and *found* a child;

Which

* Xerxes.

Which gard'ner hath most cabbages and peas,

And which old woman hath most hives of bees ;

Which farmer boasts the most prolific fows,

Cocks, hens, geese, turkies, goats, sheep, bulls,
and cows

Which barber, best the ladies locks can curl ;

Which house in Windsor, sells the finest purl ;

Which CHIMNEY-SWEEP, best beats, in gold
array,

His brush, and shovel, on the first of May :

Whose dancing dogs, in rigadoons excel ;

And whose the puppet-shew, that bears the bell ;

Which clever SMITH, the prettiest man-trap *
makes,

To save from thieves, the royal ducks and drakes ;

The

* His M——y hath planted a number of those trusty guardians around his park at Windsor, for the benefit of the public.

The Guinea hens and peacocks with their eggs ;

And catch his loving subjects by the legs.

O ! since the PRINCE OF GOSSIPS, reads thy
book,

To what high honours may not Bozzy look ?

The sunshine of his smile, may soon be thine—

Perchance, in converse thou may'st hear him
shine :

Perchance, to stamp thy merit through the nation,

He begs of Johnson's life, thy Dedication ;

Asks questions * of thee, O thou lucky elf,

And *kindly* answers ev'ry one, *himself*.

Blest

* Just after Dr. Johnson had been honoured with an interview with a certain great personage, in the Queen's library at Buckingham House, he was interrogated by a friend concerning his reception, and his opinion of the r-y-l intellect.—His M——y seems to be possessed of much good nature, and much curiosity (replied the Doctor) ; as for his

Blest with the classic learning † of a college,
 Our K—g is not a *miser* in his knowledge :
 Nought in the storehouse of his brain turns
 musty :

No razor-wit, for want of use, grows rusty.
 Whate'er his head suggests, whate'er he knows,
 Free as election beer from tubs, it flows !
 Yet, ah ! superior far !—it boasts the merit
 Of never *fuddling* people with the *spirit* !

Say

us, it is far from contemptible.—His M——y indeed was
multifarious in his *questions* ; but, thank God, he answered
 them all *himself*.

† This is a very extraordinary circumstance, as the late
 P——s D——r retained three parts of the money ordered
 for the education of her children. *The effect* of this absurd
 conduct was so conspicuous in her daughter M——A, that
 the letters received from her during her residence at Denmark,
 were absolutely unintelligible.

Say Bozzy, *when*, to bless our anxious fight,

When shall thy volume * burst the gates of
light ?

O, cloath'd in calf, ambitious brat be born—

Our kitchens, parlours, libraries, adorn !

My fancy's keen anticipating eye,

A thousand charming anecdotes can spy :

I read, I read of G—ge the *learn'd* † display

On LOUTH'S and WARBURTON'S immortal
fray :

Of G—ge, whose brain, if right the mark I hit,

Forms one huge Cyclopædia of wit :

That

* The life of Dr. Johnson.

† His M——y's *commentary* on that quarrel, in which the BISHOP and the DOCTOR pelted one the other with dirt so *gracefully*, will be a *treasure* to the lovers of literature ! Mr. B. hath as good as promised it to the PUBLIC, and we hope, means to keep his word.

That holds the wisdom of a thousand ages,
 And frightens all his WORKMEN and his PAGES !
 O Bozzy, still, thy tell-tale plan pursue :
 The world is wond'rous fond of something *new* ;
 And, let but SCANDAL'S breath embalm the
 page,
 It lives a *welcome guest* from age to age.
 Not only say who *breathes* an arrant knave,
 But who hath sneak'd a rascal to his *grave* :
 Make o'er his turf (in VIRTUE'S cause) a rout,
 And, like a *d-mn'd good Christian*, pull him out.
 Without a fear, on *families*, harangue,
 Say who shall lose their ears, and who shall
 hang ;
 Publish the demireps, and punks—nay more,
 Declare what virtuous wife, *will be* a wh-re.
 Thy brilliant brain, conjecture, can supply,
 To charm through ev'ry leaf, the eager eye.

The

The BLUE STOCKING * society describe,
 And give thy comment on each joke, and gibe :
 Tell what the *women* are, their wit, their
 quality,
 And dip them in thy streams of *immortality* !
 Let Lord McDONALD threat thy breech, to
 kick, †
 And o'er thy shrinking shoulders, shake his stick :
 Treat with contempt, the menace of this Lord,
 'Tis HIST'RY'S province, Bozzy, to *record*.
 Though WILKES abuse thy brain, that *airy mill*,
 And swear poor JOHNSON *murther'd* by thy
 quill ;

What's

* A club mostly composed of learned ladies, to which
 Mr. B. was admitted.

† A letter of *severe* remonstrance was sent to Mr. B.
 who, in consequence, omitted, in the second edition of his
 Journal, what is so generally pleasing to the public, viz.
 the *scandalous passages* relative to this nobleman.

What's that to thee? Why let the victim
bleed—

Thy end is answer'd, if the Nation *read*.

The fiddling Knight, * and *tuneful* Mrs. Thrale,
Who frequent *hobb'd* or *nobb'd* with Sam, in ale,
Snatch up the pen (as thirst of fame inspires!)
To write his *jokes* and *stories* by their fires:

Then why not THOU, each joke and tale en-
roll,

Who like a watchful cat, before a hole,
Full twenty years (inflam'd with letter'd pride)
Did'st mousing sit before SAM's mouth so wide,
To catch as many scraps as thou wert able—
A very LAZ'RUS at the RICH MAN's table?

What,

* Sir John Hawkins, who (as well as Mrs. Thrale, now Madam Piozzi) threatens us with the life of the late lexicographer.

What, tho' against thee PORTERS* bounce the
door,

And bid thee hunt for secrets, *there* no more,

With pen and ink so ready at thy coat,

EXCISEMAN-LIKE, each syllable to note,

That giv'n to PRINTERS-DEVILS, (a precious
load !)

On wings of PRINT, comes flying all abroad ?

Watch then the venal VALETS—smack the MAIDS,

And try with gold to make them *rogues* and *jades* :

Yet should their honesty, thy bribes, resent ;

Fly to thy *fertile genius*, and *invent* :

Like old VOLTAIRE, who plac'd his greatest glory

In cooking up an *entertaining* story ;

Who

* This is literally true---Nobody is at home. Our great people want the taste to relish Mr. Boswell's vehicles to immortality. Though in LONDON, poor Bozzy is in a *desert*.

Who laugh'd at TRUTH, whene'er her *simple*
tongue

Would snatch *amusement* from a tale or song.

O! whilst amid the anecdotic mine,
'Thou labour'st hard to bid thy HERO shine,
Run to Bolt Court, * exert thy CURL-like † soul,
And fish for golden leaves from hole to hole;
Find when he eat and drank, and cough'd, and
sneeze'd - -

Let all his *motions* in thy book be squeeze'd:
On tales *however strange*, impose thy claw;
Yes, let thy amber lick up ev'ry straw:
SAM's nods, and winks, and laughs, will form a
treat;

For all that breathes of JOHNSON *must* be great!

Blest

* In Fleet-street, where the Doctor lived and died.

† CURL the bookseller frequently bribed people to hunt
the temples of Cloacina for Pope's and Swift's Letters.

Blest be thy labours, most advent'rous Bozzy,
 Bold rival of Sir John, and Dame Piozzi;
 Heav'ns! with what laurels shall thy head be
 crown'd!

A *grove*, a *forest*, shall thy ears, surround!
 Yes! whilst the RAMBLER shall a COMET blaze,
 And gild a world of darkness with his rays,
 THEE too, that WORLD, with wonderment, shall
 hail,

A lively, bouncing CRACKER at his TAIL!

POST-



P O S T S C R I P T.

AS Mr. BOSWELL's Journal hath afforded such universal pleasure by the relation of minute incidents, and the great Moralist's opinion of men and things, during his northern tour; it will be adding greatly to the anecdotal treasury, as well as making Mr. B. happy, to communicate part of a Dialogue that took place between Dr. Johnson and the Author of this Congratulatory Epistle, a few months before the Doctor paid the great debt of nature. The Doctor was very chearful that day, had on a black coat and waistcoat, a black plush pair of breeches, and black worsted stockings; a handsome grey wig, a shirt, a muslin

D

neckcloth,

neckcloth, a black pair of buttons in his shirt sleeves, a pair of shoes, ornamented with the very identical little buckles that accompanied the philosopher to the Hebrides; his nails were very neatly pared, and his beard fresh shaved by a razor fabricated by the ingenious Mr. Savigny.

P. P. "Pray, Doctor, what is your opinion of Mr. Boswell's literary powers?"

Johnson. "Sir, my opinion is, that whenever Boszy expires, he will create no *vacuum* in the region of literature—he seems strongly affected by the *cacoethes scribendi*; wishes to be thought a *rara avis*, and in truth so he is—your knowledge in ornithology, Sir, will easily discover, to what species of bird I allude." Here the Doctor shook his head and laughed.

P. P. "What think you, Sir, of his account of Corsica?—Of his character of Paoli?"

Johnson.

Johnson. “ Sir, he hath made a mountain of a wart. But Paoli has virtues. The account is a farrago of disgusting egotism and pompous inanity.”

P. P. “ I have heard it whispered, Doctor, that should you die before him, Mr. B. means to write your life.”

Johnson. “ Sir, he cannot mean me so irreparable an injury.—Which of us shall die first, is only known to the Great Disposer of Events ; but were I sure that James Boswell would write *my* life, I do not know whether I would not anticipate the measure, by taking *his*.” (Here he made three or four strides across the room, and returned to his chair with violent emotion.)

P. P. “ I am afraid that he means to do you the favour.”

Johnson. “ He dares not—he would make a scarecrow of me. I give him liberty to fire his blunderbuss in *his own* face,

face, but not murther *me*. Sir, I heed
not *his αὐτός ἴφα*—BOSWELL write my life!
why the fellow possesses not abilities for
writing the life of an *ephemera*.”

F I N I S.

A faint circular library stamp is visible in the lower center of the page. It contains the text "BRITISH MUSEUM" around the top edge and "135873" in the center.